



# Everman Community Newsletter

## 2019 Flood Update

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

City Hall 817-293-0525 [www.evermantx.net](http://www.evermantx.net)

### Updated Information

It has been over 3 months since the devastating flood occurred in the City of Everman. The flood caused significant damage to several businesses and over 70 homes in our city. This newsletter is designed to inform you of the steps that the City of Everman is currently taking and also plans to seek out in the future.

### Trash/Debris

Although the dumpsters have been removed from the neighborhoods, bulk trash pick-up continues. If you have trash/debris that still needs to be removed, please place the bundled debris curbside and Waste Management will take care of having it removed. If you have any issues with trash not being picked up, please call Everman City Hall at 817-293-0525 and report the issue.

### FEMA Assistance

In the moments following the flood, Everman Emergency Management requested the assistance of the Tarrant County Office of Emergency Management in response to this disaster. Upon initial damage assessment, it was discovered that further assistance may be required. The Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) was notified and requested for assistance. During the disaster cleanup, local, county and state officials worked to gather information and perform damage assessments on property. On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, Mayor Ray Richardson declared an official State of Disaster for the City of Everman. This was one of many steps that would be necessary in the event a Federal State of Disaster was declared by the President. These same steps were followed in other affected communities around the state over the next several days. On Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Governor Greg Abbott declared an official State of Disaster in Tarrant, Ellis and Sutton counties. This was done to allow access to state resources and equipment if needed. This was also another step that was needed in the event of a Presidential Declaration of a State of Disaster which would trigger Federal Assistance.

Unfortunately, in the coming days it was learned that the State of Texas minimum damage threshold was not met and that a Presidential Declaration would not occur. Therefore, this tragic incident in our community does not qualify for federal assistance. Currently, neither the City of Everman or Tarrant County has received any State of Federal financial assistance.

### Future Mitigation

The City of Everman has requested assistance from other jurisdictions with performing a general clean out of the creek. We hope to begin some of this process in the very near future. However, this does not seem to be a good long-term solution.

A common question that is asked is, "What is the City doing to prevent such an incident in the future?". Before we can answer that question, we have to identify all potential causes or threats and then identify any and all possible solutions to those specific causes. Currently, the City of Everman is working with Tarrant County and other organizations to get assistance with performing an evaluation of the water ways including the inbound and outbound portions surrounding Everman. The City of Everman is also researching the possibility that local development outside of Everman may have impacted our floodways. The City of Everman is not consulted in anyway during these types of developments that occur outside of our City Limits. This research and determination must be made by qualified engineers and thorough hydrology studies. City Engineers have already begun part of this process.

Everman Emergency Management is working with the North Central Texas Council of Governments as well as the Tarrant County Office of Emergency Management, to complete a Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. Once these potential threats have been identified, the City of Everman can include those in the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. Once included in this plan, the City of Everman plans to apply for Mitigation Grant Funding to assist with completing projects. We are nearing the completion of our part

in the process and hope to have this plan submitted to FEMA for approval by the end of February.

Additionally, Everman City Officials have had multiple meetings with representatives from other jurisdictions regarding this flooding event and future mitigation activities. We are currently researching several mitigation strategies, such as improved waterways and improved storm drainage. However, it is important to keep in mind that we must do this in conjunction with neighboring jurisdictions to make sure that these efforts are continued throughout the entire waterway to assure proper drainage downstream. The City of Everman has requested the assistance of the Army Corp of Engineers on this project and hoping to meet with them in the coming weeks.

## Emergency Planning and Preparations

Everman Emergency Services has also been seeking out ways to better provide early warning to residents when a flooding event may occur. The Everman Volunteer Fire Department has been seeking out training and equipment geared towards swift water rescue to provide them with the skills needed during such incidents. Although the Everman Fire Department would not be equipped with any type of boat, the firefighters and volunteers would be trained in swift water rescue techniques that could be utilized in incidents such as these. It is our sincere hope and goal that this type of incident never repeats itself, however we will be better prepared if it does.

Additionally, Everman Emergency Services has been working with the Tarrant County Office of Emergency Management as well as the Tarrant Regional Water District to install an electronic creek monitoring system. This monitoring system, if obtained, would allow emergency responders to monitor creek levels and provide early warning when creek levels begin to rise to dangerous levels. This will allow for better and earlier warning to our residents when flash flooding from creeks is possible or imminent.

Everman Emergency Services is also in the process of making several upgrades to communications and monitoring systems. Everman Emergency Services is now a participant in the NWSChat, which grants us direct access to National Weather Service Meteorologist and other professionals during significant weather events. This provides emergency responders with real-time weather data and more accurate short-term weather

forecast, ever increasing our ability to better forecast events and provide early warning when needed. This is just one example of several technological and procedural changes that have been made to better address emergency situations in the future.

## Our Message

We want residents to know that local, county and state officials have been working on this incident since it occurred. We also have no plans of stopping anytime in the near future. We understand how devastating this event has been for many of our families. We are also committed to improving life in Everman for the future. If you have a need, please do not hesitate to ask.